

Preserve

Your voice for heritage in the Capital Region and the Islands since 1973

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 33, Number 3, Autumn 2006

Nick's Notes

Two interesting meetings on the same day recently—one on the Roundhouse and one on the Bay Building. And interesting parallels between the two.

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The Sisters of St. Ann Make the Journey to Victoria

In 1846, Reverend Modeste Demers was consecrated bishop and 'missionary advocate' of Bishop Norbert Blanchet in the 'Oregon Territory, a vast area ranging from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean

Page 4

Notice of AGM

The 2006 Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, October 2, 1006 at the James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street. 7:30pm

Page 5

Oak Bay Heritage

It was with disbelief that we heard that the new owners of the property at 3150 Rutland Road have applied for a demolition permit..



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HSBC Conference Report

The annual conference of the Heritage Society of BC was held in Nanaimo June 1-3, 2006.

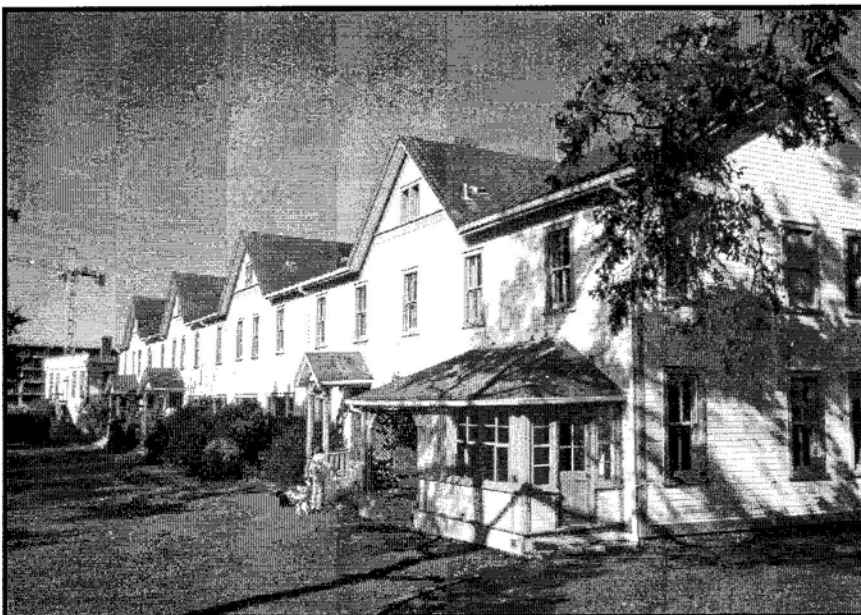
Page 9

Calendar

Keeping you aware of current events in the heritage world.

Page 11

Slow death for Building 1027, Work Point Barracks: The Officers' Mess



Heritage Week tour - February 21, 2004. View from the southeast.

As firm believers in the idea that a picture is worth a thousands words, we present several thousand words to document the drawn-out demise of a once-proud and useful building.

Despite a massive effort by heritage advocates and military historians to save the Officers' Mess at Work Point Barracks, it is slowly being "deconstructed." This **does** differ from demolition in that reasonable care is taken to render building materials re-usable. However, what sort of market is there for shiplap? Also, as you can see from one of the photos on page 7, the brick from the westernmost chimney sits in a disordered pile on the ground.

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At last count, there were 13 massive dumpsters on site, no doubt filled with historic material that could have found new homes. What happened to the magnificent fireplaces and plaster decoration? We can only hope that they have found appreciative new homes.

Given the well-documented historical importance of this building and its site to the military, to Canada, and to the region, it is still hard to comprehend how it could be lost. It seems that even when you do “know what you’ve got,” many will not appreciate it until it is gone. How many times has a building come down, only to have people say: “You were right, we should have saved it.” As heritage advocates have been saying for years, once it’s gone, that’s it. Destroyed heritage cannot be resurrected.

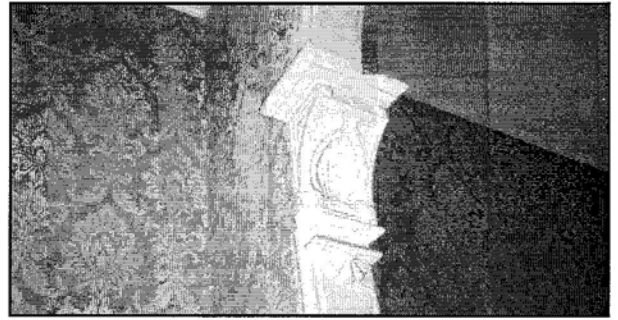
Of concern now is the lack of maintenance on the Haida Building, directly to the west of the Officers’ Mess. The paint is peeling, wood is rotting, and nobody seems to care. Could this be the next “deconstruction?”



Fireplace with historic wallpaper. May 11, 2003



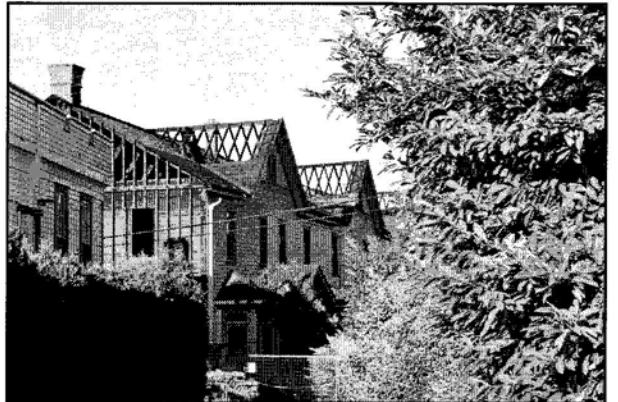
Fireplace with historic wallpaper above. May 11, 2003



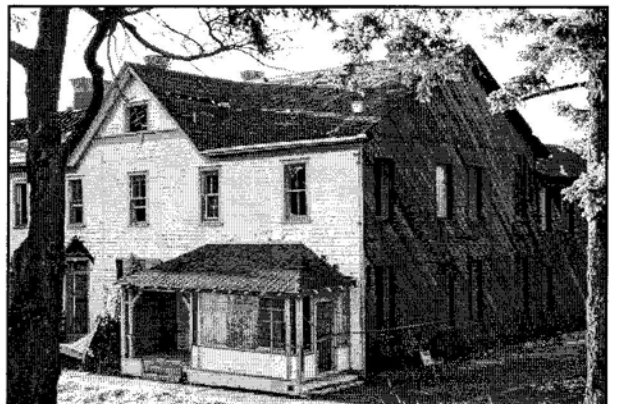
Plaster detail. May 11, 2003



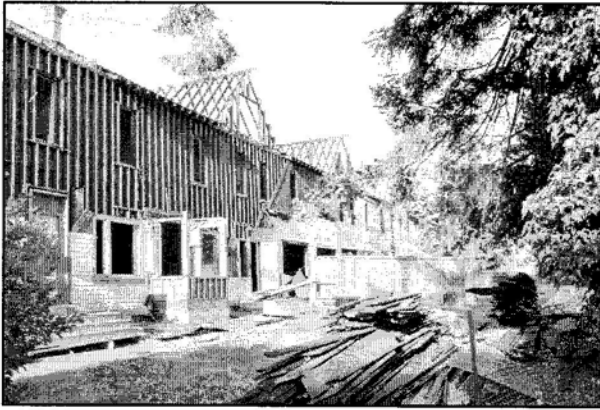
April 28, 2006



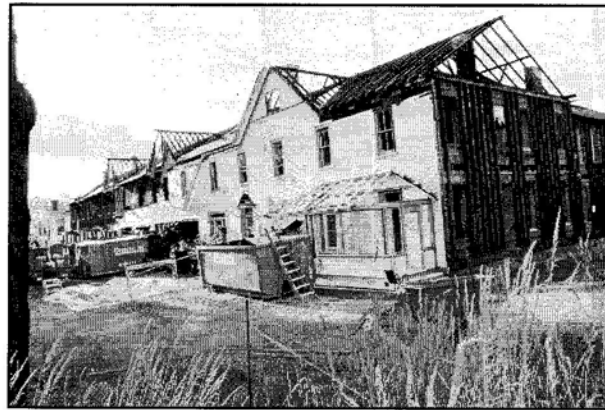
June 25, 2006



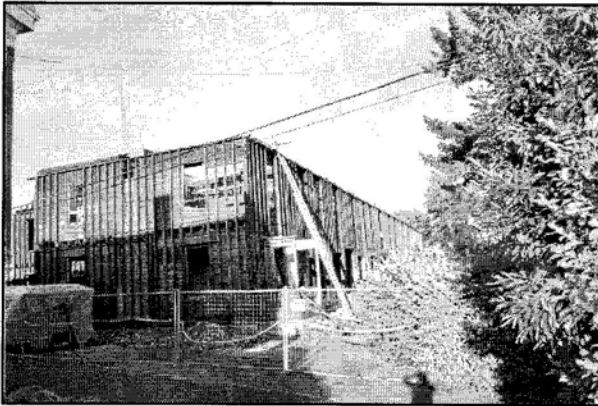
June 25, 2006



July 9, 2006



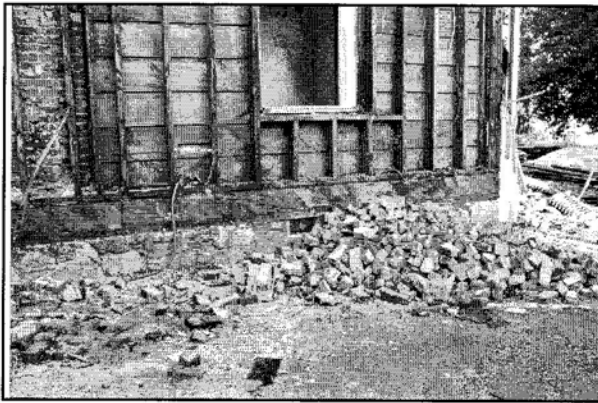
July 9, 2006



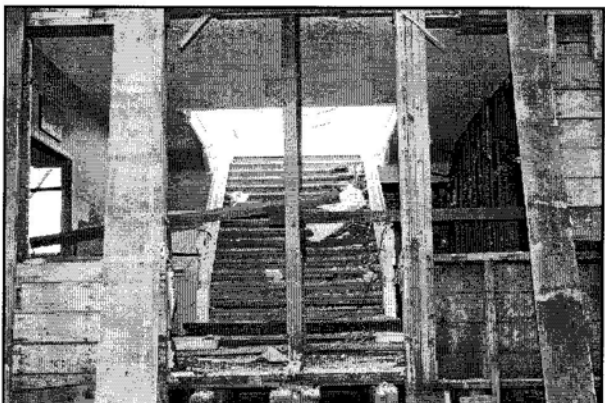
July 31, 2006



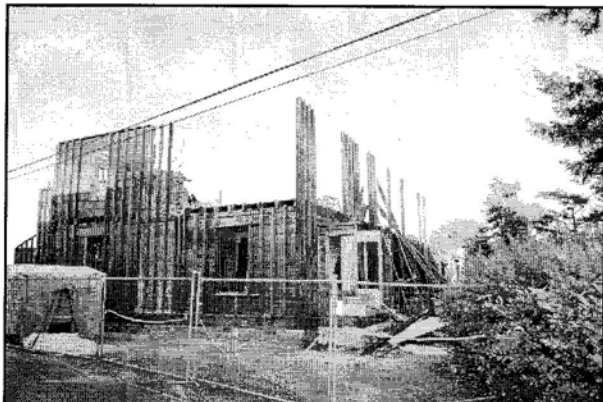
July 31, 2006



Discarded bricks. July 31, 2006



Remains of main staircase, August 20, 2006



View from the west, August 20, 2006



View from the east, August 20, 2006